THE שקל

SHEKEL

VOLUME IV NO. 3 FALL 1971 PRICE $1.50

HIGHLIGHTS

Palestine Currency Board 100-Pound Note
Production of Ancient Coins
British Palestine Service Medals
Let My People Go Coin Issued
Israel's Army Scrip
Jerusalem Diary
Gould's Gelt Guide: Chanukah 1961
Numismatic Photo Album
New Executive Replaces Levy
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THE SHEKEL will exist only for the benefit of its readers. To further that purpose, it will coordinate the activities of all with the hope that there will be a meaningful interchange of information, views and ideas through its pages.

THE SHEKEL will strive to be informative, interesting, educational and entertaining. To that end, it will endeavor to obtain articles and treatises from leading authorities in the United States, Israel and from other countries.

Finally, THE SHEKEL will be of interest not only to advanced collectors and numismatists but also to those just starting out on that delightful path leading to greater understanding and knowledge of Israeli numismatics.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The nearest thing to an AINA Convention was the Israel night at the recent American Numismatic Association gathering in Washington. It was a genuine pleasure to meet and speak with over 100 AINA members who were among the 250- and-more people who gathered at the Washington Hilton Hotel.

Where but at an AINA convention could your president hope to introduce six presidents of INS clubs to those gathered in the hall? Where but at such a splendid occasion could your president on your behalf add AINA honors in a special presentation to Mr. John Jay Pitman, the newly inaugurated president of the American Numismatic Association?

What could be a more meaningful setting in which to honor such a great lady of Israeli numismatics as Sylvia Haffner with a special award from

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The SHEKEL

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PALESTINE CURRENCY BOARD 100-POUND NOTE

by Jack H. Fisher

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All serious collectors, dealers, students and researchers of the coins and paper money issued by the Palestine Currency Board for use as legal tender during the British Mandate have sought and continue to seek the 100 pound note for private collections, exhibits and research. It proved to be so elusive over many years to many serious numismatists that many concluded that none survived.

The first notes issued by the Palestine Currency board bore the issuedate of September 1, 1927. Official records of the Palestine Currency board verified that notes were issued in denominations of 500 mils, one, five, 10, 50 and 100 pounds. Investigation of the official records verified that as of March 31, 1928, 535 notes of the 100 pound denomination were in circulation.

Search for information concerning the 100 pound note was almost as frustrating and fruitless for a period of years as the attempt to locate one of the notes of the 100 pound denomination. Correspondence was pursued with numismatic friends in Israel over a period of years, and special mention of the efforts expended to attempt to assist my research is made for the efforts of David Atsmony of Tel Aviv and Leo Better of Haifa. Rumors were followed of the existence of the 100 pound note without any concrete proof of the existence of such a note. Fred Bertram and Sylvia Haffner in their trips to Israel and contacts exerted appreciated efforts, but without success.

All of my Israeli numismatic friends who had lived in Palestine during the Mandate period informed me they did not recall ever seeing such a note of the 100 pound denomination during the time Palestine Currency board notes were legal tender in Palestine. Many offered the suggestion that these 100 pound notes may only have been used between banks or in high level business transactions, as most Palestine residents from 1927 up to World War II did not earn a total of 100 pounds per year.

The search then turned to England. Contact was made with various government agencies, banks, private collectors, dealers and although most sources contacted attempted to render assistance in the location of just one 100 pound PCB note, none was located.

There were suggestions to turn the direction of the search to the Arab countries due to the fact that Palestine Currency board notes circulated through the Arab countries during the British Mandate period, plus the fact that many wealthy Arabs during the British Mandate did not completely trust the banks. The additional suggestion was that possibly some Arab individual with a hoard of wealth in

British pound sterling notes also kept Palestine Currency board notes.

The quest then turned to Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Egypt. Correspondence with collectors and dealers proved completely unsuccessful in these countries, as the reports were in substance the same as those previously received from Israeli correspondents. Several suggested that the search be turned to private non-collector prestige families in the Arab countries to poll their own families, but I had no such contacts to pursue.

My probing and search turned up other desired and interesting data and notes of the Palestine Currency board, but in the period of almost nine years I could not verify even that one 100 pound note survived the currency system of PCB.

"Israel's Money" by Leo Kadman acknowledged in his book his gratitude to the superintendent, stamp and note control branch, Crown Agents, London, for putting at his disposal for his book photographs of the Palestine Currency board notes. It was noted that the 100 pound note in Plate IX following Page 90 had the issue date of September 10, 1942 with serial number A 000000 plus the perforation of "CANCELLED".

"The History of Modern Israel Money" by Sylvia Haffner on page 135 used as the illustration for the PCB 100 pound note a note of the same 1942 date, same appearance, serial number A 000000 and the "CANCELLED" perforation with this note listed by Mrs. Haffner as "Rare." Fred Bertram and Robert Weber in their "Catalog of Israel's 20 Year Coins & Currency" on Page 99 used as illustration the same appearance 1942 date 100 pound note as described above with this note listed by these authors as "Rare."

It seemed that as a researcher I was not even to have the opportunity to see and examine a picture of the regular issue note of the 100 pound denomination.

Names of important Arab families were obtained by me from a variety of sources. The replies received from these inquiries were the same as others over the years that no such note was known to exist.

The author located this single note in Europe after years of search through the Western and Arab worlds.

Several dealers in the Middle East advertised the 100 pound PCB note along with other Middle East numismatic items, but inquiries were met with the reply that the note was not in stock or that attempt would be made to obtain such a note for me. United States, British and European dealers also attempted to locate this note without success.

My research during the long period did verify the number of 100 pound notes in circulation for each fiscal year of the operation of the Palestine Currency board.

Records on a year-to-year basis after 1952 were not located, but official sources in London verified that as of March 31, 1966, only seven 100 pound notes had not been redeemed and cancelled through the Palestine Currency board notes redemption procedure. A representative of the British government cautioned that this is the theoretical amount of 100 pound notes outstanding as of March 31, 1966, as this British official stated at least seme of the notes theoretically outstanding may have been destroyed from one cause or another.

PERIOD	*100 POUND NOTES IN CIRCULATION*
March 31, 1928	535
March 31, 1929	263
March 31, 1930	216
March 31, 1931	120
March 31, 1932	95
March 31, 1933	84
March 31, 1934	56
March 31, 1935	119
March 31, 1936	447
March 31, 1937	206
March 31, 1938	147
March 31, 1939	238
March 31, 1940	146
March 31, 1941	135
March 31, 1942	133
March 31, 1943	461
March 31, 1944	757
March 31, 1945	1,457
Marhe 31, 1946	1,422
March 31, 1947	1,795
March 31, 1948	1,587
March 31, 1949	854
March 31, 1950	525
March 31, 1951	75
March 31, 1952	16

The last tenacious hope to locate at least one surviving 100 pound note about ebbed away after I learned the important information that only seven notes had not been redeemed. The nagging optimistic hope still lingered, and finally there was a rumor of such a 100 pound note in Europe. The flame of hope was kindled again, and there was correspondence with the alleged owner.

The owner indicated no desire to part with the note or to photograph it, but did state that it bore the issue date of September 30, 1929. This was the first information learned that the Palestine Currency board had issued in addition to 100 pound notes with dates of September 1, 1927, and September 10, 1942, notes with date of September 30, 1929.

Correspondence and negotiations were in process over a year on a personal basis and through various representatives, but without success. A special note of appreciation is extended for the efforts of my cousin, Huguette Fisher, of Muskegon, Michigan. Her assistance in correspondence to the owner in Europe plus personal contacts with the owner in Europe were extremely important elements in the negotiations. The negotiations finally resulted in the 100 pound note being acquired for my personal collection, and my feeling of actual acquisition for research purposes of this note is truly beyond description.

It is my humble opinion that 100 pound notes issued by the Palestine Currency board are the rarest numismatic items in the entire field of Palestine paper money. This should be in the same category to the collector of Palestine Currency board notes as the 1913 Liberty Head nickel is in the field of United States coins.

My interest in numismatic material is mainly for research purposes, and I have never exhibited. This note, along with other numismatic important items, is in a bank vault. It will be made available at the bank vault to

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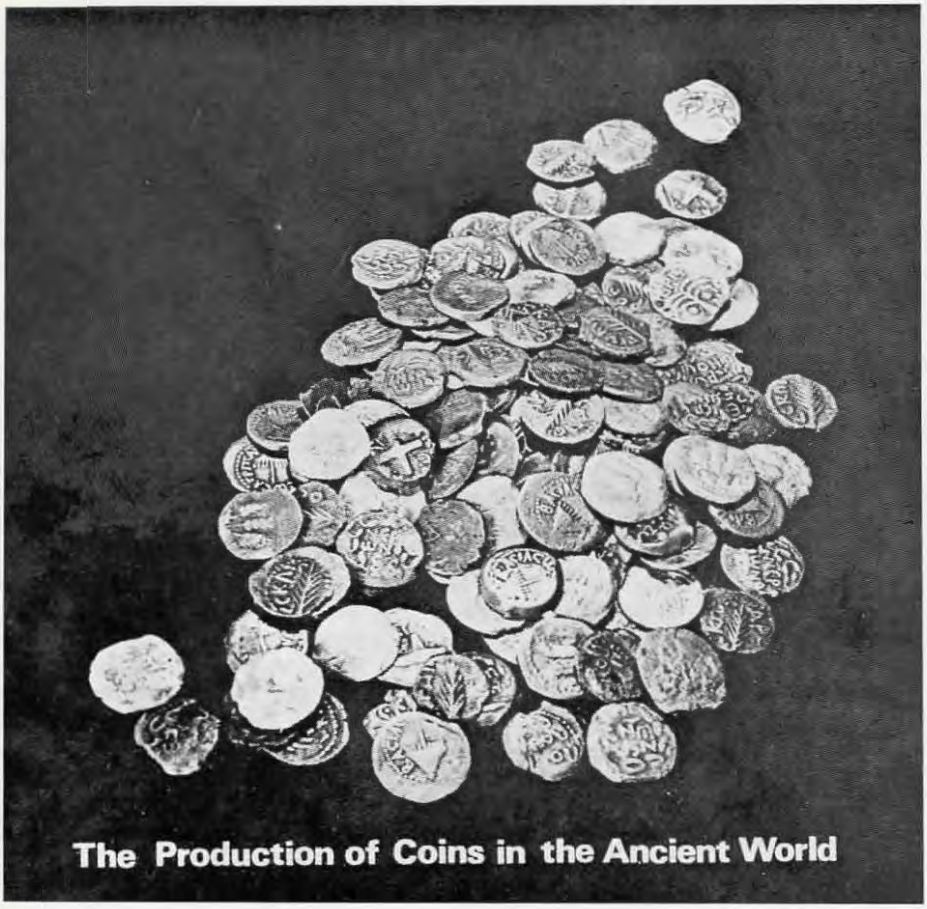

The Production of Coins in the Ancient World

by Yaakov Meshorer

The text which follows are the actual pages from a profusely illustrated 48-page pamphlet issued by the Israel Museum, Jerusalem. The illustrations (not shown) are coins and tools which were loaned by Departments of the Hebrew University; the Kadman Musum and numerous private collectors. Mr. Meshorer, author of this pamphlet is the Curator of the Numismatic Hall of the Israel Museum. The pamphlet is Catalog No. 70, issued in Summer, 1970 with both Hebrew and English texts. **The Shekel** gratefully acknowledges the permission of the Author and the Israel Museum to reproduce this text for American collectors.

The minting of coins

The first stage in the production of coins was the preparation of the material. Whether it was to be a gold, silver, or bronze coin, the proper alloy had first to be got ready, since the pure metal was never used. This operation was done when the metal was melted.

The minting itself took place in two stages. First, there was the casting of the flan or blank from which the coin was struck. This was followed by the striking.

In another, less usual, method employed in some mints in the ancient world these two stages were combined, the coins being cast in moulds in which the designs of the coins were engraved.

Flan moulds

moulding The flans were cast in a mould that consisted of two parts. The upper section had a smooth inner surface while the lower one had sunk in it rows of cylindrical sockets which tapered slightly towards the bottom so that the flans could be removed from them after the metal had cooled The sockets in each row were either contiguous or connected by a narrow channel whose top extremity ended in a wide funnel into which, after the two parts of the mould had been joined together, the molten metal was poured until it filled the rows of sockets. In this way flans, smooth on both sides and of a uniform thickness, were produced.

Flan moulds have been found in the country in several places, the most important of them having been uncovered in Jerusalem and Shomeron (Sebaste). Most of these moulds are displayed in the exhibition.

The flans

After the metal had been cast and had cooled, the mould was opened to remove the rows of connected flans or flan strips. Sometimes the rows themselves were joined at the top as a result of the molten metal having overflowed the pouring funnels.

Before the striking was done, the rows were undoubtedly separated from one another but not so the flans in each row, a whole one of which was struck at a time.

minting Various finds, especially artistic ones, indicate that the flans were heated before being struck so that the impression might be deeper and clearer. By means of tongs the flan strip was put into a fire and when hot was placed on the striking anvil, which generally consisted of a tree trunk and in which the lower die was set, while the upper one was held by the moneyer. After another man had put the flan strip between the two dies, the moneyer hit the upper die with a hammer. In this manner flan after flan was struck. Only when the striking was completed were the coins separated. Included in the exhibition is a coin of Pontius Pilate which by chance was not separated from the end of the flan strip, attesting that the striking was done while the flans were still joined together.

Remains of a mint found in the Citadel in Jerusalem

In excavations of the Citadel (the Tower of David), conducted in 1969 under the direction of Ruth Amiran and Avraham Eitan on behalf of the Israel Museum, interesting remains were uncovered of a mint which existed apparently at that place in the 1st century B.C.E. Among the finds was a fragment of a unique flan mould, a rectangular limestone one,

whose width has been fully preserved (22.3 cms.) but whose original length is uncertain, the maximum length of the extant fragment being 23.5 cms., while its thickness is 4.5–5.2 cms.

Unlike most moulds, the sockets in this one are equidistant from one another. On its left edges, adjoining the sockets and corresponding to them, are half sockets, apparently external indicators intended to help in aligning the two parts of the mould. It was thus used for casting flans by the "double mould" technique, that is, it had sockets in both its upper and lower parts. Flans made in such a mould are particularly thick and give the appearance of having been made by sticking two coins together. The only coins produced in Jerusalem in a double mould are those of Mattityah Antigonus and since the mould was found in strata of that period its date can be assigned to 40–37 B.C.E. mould for flans

In the excavations of the Citadel there was also found the top end of a strip of bronze flans that had received the form of a pouring funnel. On its one side can be seen the shape of the first flan (13 mms. in diameter). After the coins had been struck and the flans had been separated, this part was thrown away as refuse

Together with the remains of the mint's refuse, two groups of bronze flans in various stages of preparation were also found. In the one group were two complete flans still connected, several flans that had been spoilt in casting, and the runners that had been dumped after being separated from the coins. All the flans have a small raised point in their centre, due to the sockets in the mould having been bored with a pointed bit. In the second group, which also contained flans and the refuse of flans, there was found a coin of Herod, to whose days, on the basis of their size, weight, and shape, the flans may be assigned, although very similar ones were used for the coins of Alexander Yannai. However, the coin of Herod found in this group supports the dating of the flans as Herodian. flans

Dies

Dies were made of a harder material than the coins on which they were struck. For gold coins, bronze dies sufficed, while for silver and bronze coins, iron or even steel dies were employed. Several dozen dies used for striking Greek, Roman, and later coins are extant. It is interesting that most of the ancient dies have been found far from their natural or anticipated locality. Dies for Athenian coins, for example, were discovered in Egypt, while the die displayed in this exhibition, although apparently from the Cairo mint, was found outside Egypt. There are reasons for believing that most of the ancient dies that have been discovered belonged to forgers or to provincial mints which imitated those of the central mints.

A set of dies generally consisted of two, the upper and the lower ones. During the striking, the former was held by the moneyer who hit it with a hammer; the latter was set in the anvil. Sets of dies have also been found that are made like tongs with a hinged upper and lower arm. Coins struck with such dies are distinguished by having a uniform axis.

In 1926 the Rockefeller Museum acquired a set of bronze dies, said to have been found in Amman, for striking Fatimid gold dinars. The lower die is cylindrical with four projections on its base for setting it in the wooden anvil. The upper die, which is 50 mms. long, Fatimid dies

is also cylindrical, but its top end has spread from hammering when the coins were struck.

These dies were used for striking gold dinars of the Fatimid Khalif Abu Mansur al-'Aziz billah in Cairo in 372 H. (982/3 C.E.). On the basis of the style of the script Professor L. A. Mayer held that they are indeed ancient dies, although not of the principal Cairo mint but of a provincial one which copied or forged the original coins.

Venetian die

Near Bet Herut in the Sharon a bronze die for a Venetian gold ducat has been found. Venetian coins were for a long time current in the ancient world, and even after they ceased to be struck, they or imitations of them were struck in other places. The die displayed here is apparently a late one and was used for striking a local imitation of the Venetian ducat. It is difficult to date it precisely, since original Venetian coins were struck until the end of the 11th century C.E. As the details of its design have been carelessly executed and the legend is illegible, it is impossible to determine which coin was imitated. The die is apparently very late and not older than two or three hundred years.

On the ducat struck with this die there appears the duke kneeling at the feet of the standing figure of St. Mark. Around is a crude, illegible legend. Above is a vertical legend: DVX.

Cast coins

Alongside the customary method of striking coins, some were, as previously mentioned, also produced in various places and at different times by being cast in moulds in which the designs of the coins were engraved. These cast coins can be recognized by the fact that their designs are somewhat blurred and not as sharp as those on struck coins. This method was employed in two large mints in the ancient world: in the mint of Rome in the early Republican period and in that of Alexandria in the 3rd century C.E.

lead coins mould

A limestone mould which was used for casting Crusader lead coins and in which the designs of five coins are engraved has been found at Acre. The coins cast in this mould were issued privately or semi-privately and were not intended for general but only for local use. Since most of the coins cast in such a mould have been found in the vicinity of Acre and are in a similar style, it is easy to establish their numismatic character. On their one side is a stylized cross (which appears in several forms) and on the other an eagle with spread wings or sometimes the head of an eagle only. The mould exhibited here was employed for simultaneously casting five coins which differed but slightly from one another. Two holes can be seen in this mould which were used for joining it to the other part of the mould in which the designs of the second side of the coins were engraved. A runner leads to each socket in the mould and all the runners have a common pouring funnel . All the coins of this type that have been found are of lead.

clay moulds

There was yet another, easier way of casting coins whereby the shape of a prototype coin was impressed on small, round pads or disks of clay whose diameter was only slightly larger than that of the coin. On each such clay disk the obverse of the coin was impressed on the one side and its reverse on the other. The clay disks were given a slightly concave, saucer-like shape, so that when one was superimposed on another a space was left where the designs of the coin had been impressed. These clay disks were then put in juxtaposition to one another to form a long roll of coin moulds, the

edges of which fitted tightly together but between which were empty spaces that conformed to the thickness and shape of the coins Before the casting, a groove was cut along the entire length of the roll to make an opening so that the molten metal could be poured into the empty spaces. After being cast, the coins were separated from the clay. Those produced in this way were almost perfect, there being need only to file away the surplus metal on the edges of the coins at the pouring gate.

The metal used

The earliest coins in the ancient world, which were struck at Lydia in Asia Minor at the end of the 7th century B.C.E., were made of electrum the natural alloy of gold and silver. At a later stage coins of silver and of gold were struck. Bronze was introduced as a metal for coins (for example, at Tyre and Sidon) at a relatively late period, only in the second half of the 4th century B.C.E.

For centuries gold silver and bronze were almost the sole metals used for coins. Other materials, such as lead glass and porcelain, were only seldom used.

Denominations

Prior to the introduction of coins, a lump of precious metal was weighed out and used as a means of payment. And indeed the first coins were such lumps of metal that bore the seal of the moneyer.

Establishing the denomination of a coin was originally a very simple procedure, since the relation between coins was determined solely by their weight, so that a coin, whose weight was half that of another current in the same city at the same time, had half the value of the larger coin. On the basis of a coin's size it was easy to establish whether it was a half, a quarter, or double the "whole" one. It was therefore unnecessary to indicate the denomination on a coin, as its value depended on its weight. If that diminished for various reasons (such as by breaking or rubbing), the value of the coin decreased proportionately. This system was in vogue for centuries.

denomination figures

Indicating the denominations on coins was an extremely rare feature in the ancient world until the 1st century C.E., being known only in a few types of coins which for some special reason required that their denominations should be specified. In the Byzantine period, for example, a set of bronze coins was struck in a detailed series of denominations with extremely small differences between them, so that it was necessary to indicate clearly on each coin its particular denomination, which was expressed for the most part in Greek letters that symbolized numbers but at times also in Roman numerals.

The form of coins

The earliest ancient coins had no fixed form. A round or oval lump of metal was taken and struck with a die, as a result of which the lump of metal was somewhat flattened but still did not get a disk-like shape.

The need to strike a large quantity of coins led to the development of a fast and efficient method of preparing flans of a uniform weight and size: the sockets in the mould were made with a drill that bored holes of an identical diameter and depth. In this way the round shape of the coin was arrived at. But alongside this customary method there were also

other ways of preparing flans, particularly for thin gold and silver coins, these being cut from a hammered sheet of metal. Coins made by this technique were not invariably round but had various shapes, although some were afterwards rounded.

serrated coins

In the Hellenistic period serrated bronze coins, struck by some kings of the Seleucid dynasty, were also in circulation.

Some coins had edges which were imperfectly formed after the casting and the striking and which were accordingly hammered to improve the shape of the coins. Any cracks in the edges were filled up and projections on them removed. Two types of hammering are known. The one gave the coin a straight edge ▭ (a method used on the Bar Cochba silver coins), the other gave it a curved edge ⬭ (as was done to the shekels of the days of the Roman-Jewish war).

Striking flaws

A considerable proportion of ancient coins were marred or spoilt in one way or another. This was especially the case with coins issued in a large series and which were therefore struck rapidly and in big quantities.

The flaws on these coins are of great numismatic significance, since they help in re-constructing the ancient processes of striking, of which the following are some examples.

eccentric striking

On one side of a coin of Alexander Yannai there are, instead of one design in the centre, parts of two designs at the two ends of the coin, while on the other side the design has been properly centred (fig. 29). This error, due to the coin not having been placed in the centre of the lower die, shows that the striking was done while the flans were still joined together in a strip, from which they were separated only after they had been struck.

incuse striking

A Roman denarius has the head of the emperor Alexander Severus on it twice, once correctly in relief and once in incuse. This error resulted from the fact that the previously struck coin adhered to the lower die, and its design was accordingly struck in incuse on the coin (fig. 30). From this flaw it can be seen that these Roman denarii were struck individually and not in a strip of flans as in the previous instance.

Some coins have designs in duplicate as a result of being doublestruck. This is the case, for example, with a Tyrian shekel which has a double head on it and a shekel of Ashkelon on which there are two eagles.

Ancient forgeries

After the invention of coins, forgeries were not long in making their appearance, and already at the outset attempts were made to counterfeit them. The very idea of a coin, a lump of precious metal on which the seal of the regime was stamped to guarantee its precise value, weight, and content, opened the door to forgeries. All the forger had to do was to imitate the outer form and shape of the coin while using for its inner content a cheaper metal in order to gain the difference in the amount of the gold or silver

With the appearance of forgeries, ways were found of examining coins and testing their genuineness. The most usual method was to make with a chisel or some other sharp

chisel test

instrument a deep incision in the coin by means of which the content of the coin could be examined and its genuineness immediately ascertained. A more effective instrument, used by money changers, merchants, and others, consisted of a punch with

a rounded point in which was set a special seal. The indentation made by such a punch did not spoil the coin to any great extent, since the area affected was small, nor was the shape of the coin damaged.

modern coining

The method of striking coins has not changed essentially from ancient times until the present day. It is true that nowadays advanced machines are used which produce coins at the rate of one or even more a second, but the basic operation of striking is still done by two dies, an upper and a lower one. The lower die is set in the minting machine and the upper one in a lever that descends and strikes the individually prepared flans which are fed automatically into the machine. It can thus be said that while in terms of precision, rate, and facility there have been improvements, the basic principle remains unaltered.

Tongs and hammer of the kind used for striking coins, found together.

WHO WAS

Never heard about *Private H. J. Borlont?* Neither did I, until a few weeks ago. But then I bought two British medals—the 1914-15 Star and the 1914-1919 Medal.

I got them terribly cheap: 15 pounds both. Probably they are not worth more, as both are fairly common. I got them without the ribbons, and in the case of the Medal, also without the suspension ring. So what am I bothering with them about? Because of Private Borlont, whose number was 268, and who was awarded the medals for service in the Zion Mule Corps. *Aha,* you might say, *everybody* knows a lot of Zionist mules nowadays. But in the First World War they were *rare.*

The Zion Mule Corps was a unit of the British army, enrolled during the First War in Egypt on the initative of Jabotinsky and Trumpeldor, and made up of Jews who were expelled by the Turks as enemy citizens from Palestine in the early days of the war. The British, as they were to repeat in the Second World War, did not like the idea of a fighting Jewish unit; they agreed only to organize companies of mule-drivers to serve as ammunition carriers, a service they performed with great distinction on the Gallipoli front. The Corps was disbanded at the end of 1916, most of its members going on to join the Jewish legions. Its commander was Col. Patterson; Jabotinsky was his deputy.

ABOUT BRITISH

A year ago in Akko, I was offered the British Service Medal with 1945-48 Bar by an antique shop owner. At that time, I did not know of the existence of this medal though I was aware of a Palestine Police Medal.

After buying the British medal (paying far too much) I sought information about it from fellow numismatists. Invariably their answers were:

"I have it in my collection but don't know anything about it."

British Service Medals awarded to soldiers who successfully apprehended illegal immigrants.

PRIVATE BORLONT?

by Dov Genachowski, Jerusalem.

Borlont's 1914-15 Star (obverse)

Private Borlont served in this Corps, a fact we know now thanks to the medals with the recipient's name, number, rank and unit. *I don't know anything more about him, but would like to.*

Less information is probably available about *Private 77234 Hassan Y. F. Ismail* of the Trans-Jordan Frontier Force. He won the British General Service Medal, George VI, with bar, for "Palestine 1945-48"—exactly the period of Jewish fighting against the British in Palestine prior to Israel's independence. A similar medal, but to a British Army soldier, was recently quoted in London at £5.50 (about $23.00 U. S.)—not a bad price.

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SERVICE MEDALS

by Elimelech Semmelmann

So the medal remained unnoted in my collection until my second daughter, Naomi, asked for my attention one evening while I was reading *Spink's Circular* of April, 1970. She was reading over my shoulder and said:

"Father! Palestine!"

"Where do you see Palestine?" I said.

She showed me an article by Mr. O. D. Cresswell on the subject of British General Service Medals. In this article Mr. Cresswell different service medals including a service medal with Palestine 1936-39 Bar and another with only Palestine Bar. I possess neither.

But I do now own three Service Medals with the 1945-48 Bar, each from a different unit and army.

In his article, Mr. Cresswell writes that the Bar was given to the Royal Navy men who had the thankless task of trying to stop the Jewish refugees from landing in Palestine as illegal

Continued on page 27

'LET MY PEOPLE GO' COIN ANNOUNCED FOR OCTOBER RELEASE

Jerusalem—The Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation in Jerusalem announced the issue of a special commemorative coin, by the Bank of Israel, dedicated to the "Struggle for Freedom" of Russian Jews. The Governor of the Bank of Israel, has approved this special striking, in view of the world-wide interest, solidarity and sympathy for the cause of Soviet Jews in their struggle to leave for Israel.

The legal tender coin, with a face value of IL 10, is struck in silver in regular and proof condition, by the Government Mint in Jerusalem.

A gold coin (proof only), with a denomination of IL.50, will be issued at a later date.

The message *Let My People Go,* appears on the obverse of the coin both in English and in Hebrew. The coin will be known the world over by that name. In order to enable every conscientious person to identify himself with the cause of Russian Jewry, a small lapel-pin, featuring the motto, *Let My People Go* will be offered free with each coin. A brochure containing a message from Prime Minister Golda Meir, a transcript of one of the many "Freedom Letters" addressed by Russian Jews to the Soviet Premier, and background information pertaining to the struggle of Soviet Jews will be available with the coin.

It is anticipated that the coin will be released in October, 1971. Details of the coin are on back cover of *The Shekel.*

UNIQUE PLAQUE DESIGN TO HONOR LEVY SERVICE

A dinner party held at *Rosoff's Restaurant* off Broadway in New York City honored the years of service of Ephraim Levy, *Director for North America of the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation* and welcomed his successor, Rafael Aldor. *(See photos Inside Back Cover).*

The dinner party was organized by members of the Board of Directors of AINA in mid-August. A high point in the evening's celebration was presentation of a specially designed plaque, especially created for the event. The plaque is a heavy plastic panel in blue on which are mounted a sculpted interpretation of the Jerusalem's Old City and an engraved message of appreciation extended by AINA to Mr. Levy.

Mr. Morris Bram made remarks about his special appreciation for Mr. Levy's contributions to the growth of Israeli numismatics in the U.S.A.

Gould's Gelt Guide

by Maurice M. Gould, N.L.G.

My favorite Israel commemorative coin is not the one with the lowest mintage, not the one bringing the highest price, not even the one that is the most popular, but the one with the most interesting story behind it: the Maccabean Hero.

Chanuka first took place over twenty-one hundred years ago in Jerusalem. There was great rejoicing among the populace, celebrating the triumph of the just over the wicked.

The tyrant Antiochus hated Jews and ordered them to abandon their God and abandon their faith, but the righteous man, Mattathias and his five good sons, defied him and retreated to the hills where they gathered their patriots around them. They bitterly opposed the tyrannical ruler for years and at the death of Mattathias, his son Judah became the leader of his people. His battlecry was from the Book of Exodus: *"Mi Kamoha Ba-elim Y H W H"* (Who is like unto you, O Lord, among the gods). The first letters of this call: M-K-B-Y) compose the word "Maccabee," and Judah and his followers became known as "Maccabeans."

Judah Maccabee, in one battle, with a hastily-formed army of 3,000 men, routed an enemy for of 40,000. There were many individual acts of heroism, as when Elazar Horan, the brother of Judah the Maccabee, gave up his life in solitary combat against the royal elephant. Elazar drove his sword into the underbelly of the elephant, which crushed him to death when he fell, a fate that Elazar knew would be his when he performed this deed.

These rebellious and sturdy Maccabeans fought and were victorious over the oppressors. This revolt is the first recorded history of the war for freedom to worship freely. Other insurrections have subsequently been written about, some of a violent and others of a non-violent nature, but the dedication of the Maccabeans to their religious cause has become imbedded and synonymous with the name.

Complete religious freedom was restored to Judaea and an independent state with extended boundaries was established under the rule of the Maccabeans. Judah the Hammer, as he was called, stands out as one of the great military figures of history. He led his people in guerrilla warfare and won against overwhelming odds. After three years of savage fighting, Jerusalem was liberated and the Temple dedicated once more to the devine service.

The Maccabeans returned to Jerusalem and cleaned the halls and scoured the altars of the Temple, determined to light the Temple lamps. They found there was only enough oil for one day for the eternal light on the altar, but in spite of this, the wick burned brightly and the oil lasted miraculously through eight days.

The miracle of that little pitcher of oil is celebrated each year when the Chanuka lamps are lit and the candles are placed in the windows of Jewish homes, lighting the world with courage and memories of courageous historic events. The symbol of a nation's triumphant struggle to tenaciously hold on to its spiritual identity is annually observed as well when this holiday is commemorated.

During the Hasmonean dynasty, Simon became the first Maccabee to issue Jewish money. His famous "shekels" and half shekels" are highly sought after and then John Hyrkanos

was the first to coin small pieces which appear with the double cornucopia.

Today the Maccabiah games are a miniature World Olympics, with Jewish athletes coming from all over the world to compete every four years in many events. These games attract more than a thousand athletes from the United States and many other countries.

It was in the year 12 B. C. that Jewish athletes first competed in the stadium of Caesarea, which today is the site of a modern golf course.

In 1961, on the occasion of the Chanuka holiday, the Bank of Israel issued a commemorative coin honoring the courage of the Maccabees. The obverse has a flaming torch in the center and the value "one Israeli pound" in Hebrew and below to the extreme left, the legend in Hebrew "And he gave up his life in battle."

The reverse features a combat elephant bearing a turret and soldiers equipped for battle: the elephant is being stabbed by Elazar.

This coin of "Heroism and Sacrifice" was struck in the one-pound denomination in cupro-nickel, weighs 14.2 grams and has a diameter of 32.2 mm. There were 18,916 Regular strikes and 9,428 in Proof. All of them were minted at the State Mint in Utrecht, the Netherlands.

The obverse was designed by Jacob Zim, while the reverse was designed by Gabriel and Maxim Shamir (well-known designers of both stamps and coins of Israel). The Proof mark *"mem"* appears at the bottom of the reverse.

I have the feeling that everyone has a favorite coin, no matter what he collects, as it is not the coin itself which has the appeal, but the history and reason for the striking, especially in the commemoratives.

AINA Fourth Annual Study Tour

To Israel Set For March

Within a few weeks, details of the AINA **Fourth Annual Study Tour to Israel** will be provided by mail to all AINA members.

The trip has been set for March — with exact dates to be announced shortly. But **right now** is the time to discuss with your family and friends your plan for your group to participate in this two-week tour of Israel.

You can assure yourself a place on the **Tour** by sending a deposit of $50.00 for each person — returnable should you later be unable to confirm your reservation. Send your check, or a letter of intent to AINA, P. O. Box 3194, Church Street Station, New York, N. Y. 10008.

The ALEPH BETH Page ...Dedicated to the Beginner

by Edward Janis

Q. What is the easiest way to tell the difference between the large and smal date 5 Agorot of 1962? H. L., Silver Springs, Md.

A. Haffner lists six differences for the A-203 small date issue. Some of the differences vary due to the wear of the dies, pressure in striking and minute variations in hardness and thickness of the individual planchets.

SMALL *LARGE*

Therefore, I must state that the greatest and most obvious difference between the large and small dates is the SHIN in the date. The center arm of the SHIN in the rarer small date variety has serifs. On the common large date the three arms have square edges and a slight curvature to the right arm. I have seen a large date 1962 5 Agorot coin whose right arm showed some evidence of crumbling in the upper right hand corner so that it might appear to be a weak strike of a coin die that did have a serif. Stick to the center arm of the SHIN as the best indicator.

Q. In my copy of Israel Guide by Dr. Zev Vilnay I note a Roman coin of Apolonia. The ruins of Apollonia lie about a mile and a quarter west of Herzliya. Is this not another coin-city of Israel to be added to your list in The Shekel, Fall 1970, pgs. 14-15 showing the "Other Coin Cities Of Israel"? H. F., Pittsburg, Pa.

A. I looked at my Vilney which I considered by many to be the best guidebook of Israel and on page 319 there is a line cut of a coin showing partial Latin lettering M AVO V–.

On the reverse surrounding the Horn of Abundance is the name Apollonia. This is a coin of Marcus Aurelius. With the bare, unlaurated head and the lack of IMP on the obverse, this would be a coin during his term as Caesar prior to proclamation as Emperor. This coin appears to be a typical Roman "Greek Imperial" bronze having a Latin inscription and the Roman ruler on the obverse and a local design coupled with a Greek inscription. The coins of M. Aurelius are known in the Palestinian cities of Sephoris (Tsipori), Caesarea, Neapolis (Nablus), Aelia Capitolina (Jerusalem), Ascalon (Ashkelon), and Gaza. The name of towns called Apollonia which struck coins are Apollonia Pontica in Thrace; Apollonia in Illyricum, Apollonia and Rhyndacum in Mysia; Apollonia Salbace in Caria; Apollonia Mordiaeum in Pisidia and finally in Illyricum. Arie Kindler and Dr. E. L. Klimowsky, the finest authorities on the city-coins of Palestine and Phoenicia, do not mention Apollonia as a city with a mint background. A letter is on its way to them. Thanks for calling this to our attention.

JUDAEAN JOTTINGS

by Mel Wacks

JUDAEA CAPTA: 1583 A.D.

In 1579, with supplies voted by Warsaw, Stephen Bathori declared war against Ivan the Terrible, tsar of Russia. Bathori was determined to recover the Polish territories which Ivan had possessed in order to gain Russian access to the Baltic Sea.

After three campaigns, Bathori forced Ivan to cede Polotsk and Livonia, which were ethnically Russian, under the truce of Jam Zapolski (15 Jan. 1582).

Following the ancient custom, a commemorative coin was issued in honor of the victory.

The *obverse* features a bust of King

Stephen Bathori, wearing a hat, facing right. The inscription is REX * POLONIAE * STEPHANVS * D.G. *.

The *reverse* is quite unusual, in that it is a "take-off" of the Judaea Capta coins which were issued by the Romans following their victory over Judaea in the year 70. The Judaea Capta coins often depicted a palm tree, symbol of Judaea, and a seated Jewess with her hands bound behind her back and her head bowed in an attitude of mourning; she also represents the land of Judaea. The pile of weapons and the male Jewish captive are also commonly found on the ancient Judaea Capta coins.

The coin of Bathori contains, from left to right: (1) a pile of weapons consisting of a shield, quiver, sabre, spear, bow and arrow; (2) seated male figure, wearing a pointed hat and a flowing gown, facing left with his head resting on his right hand; (3) a palm tree; (4) standing female figure in a flowing dress, with hands tied behind her back; and (5) on the far right, a young boy looking upwards; he also wears a long gown and his hands are both raised over his head. The inscription is "LIVON. POLOT. Q. RECEP." *(Livonia and Polotsk are Returned).*

The depiction of subjugated people was fairly common in ancient numismatics; coins exist showing defeated Germans, Parthians, Arabs and others. On the Polish coin the manner of dress of the figures shown, particularly the man, clearly indicates that they were meant to represent Jews.

Jews had a tradition for a distinctive form of dress, based on *Leviticus 18:3;* and it was stated specifically in the *Shulchan Aruch* (the standard code of Jewish law and practice published in 1565): *"We should not follow the ways of idolaters; nor wear a garment which is characteristic of them . . ."*

These self-imposed regulations were reinforced by numerous *Dress Regulations* issued by the Church or by the civil authorities. At the Fourth General Council of the Lateran, summoned by Pope Innocent III in 1215, it was ruled that since, *"at times through error Christians have relations with Jewish . . . women and Jews . . . with Christian women . . . Jews . . . of both sexes in every Christian province and at all times shall be distingiushed in the eye of the public from other peoples by the character of their dress".*

The outstanding characteristic of Jewish costume in medieval times was the pointed Jewish hat or Judenhut. The cone-shaped hat, along with the long flowing caftan which became a

Continued on page 32

ISRAEL'S ARMY SCRIP FOR ARMY STORES

One type of currency in use in Israel is the paper money issued for use by the Israel Defense Forces (Zahal). These are paper tokens issued to the soldiers serving in the regular forces. Perhaps here it would be good to review a bit the basic make-up of the Army.

Essentially, every able-bodied citizen is called up to serve at age 18, for a period of 20-months for girls, three years for men. After this period of obligatory service, the citizen leaves the army and goes into the reserves. These reserves are subject to service

Continued on page 31

ONE AGORA WORTH 100 POUNDS?

by Dov Genachowski

Two new 100-Pound notes turned up recently in Tel Aviv, both bearing the same serial number. From the official explanation which came after this discovery, it appears that while for all other denominations the printers for the Bank of Israel have a replacement series (from which spoiled notes are replaced when discovered in the various control stages), no such series is in use for the IL. 100 denomination, in which, probably due to its relative importance, notes are replaced by others bearing the same serial number. Thus, the discovery of identical IL. 100 notes was due to human error. Instead of just replacing one faulty note, two notes with consecutive numbers were prepared, one of which was a real "replacement", the other a duplicate, in number, to the next one.

A newspaper story had it that the discoverer was offered a thousand pounds for his notes — together, of course. This might be an exaggaration. I know of a IL. 10 note bearing two different numbers instead of identical numbers, which was sold not so long ago for IL. 100.

* * *

Something crazy is happening in the local medal market, and prices are really soaring. Not those for the ordinary issues still on sale, of course, but for those no longer in stock at the Government Coin and Medal Corp., and even more so, for medals, official and unofficial, which were never offered for sale but which were struck for presentation purposes only. I am told that a *Yad VaShem* medal, one of the rarest, fetched reeently as much as over IL. 1,000, and the relatively more common *Israel Numismatic Association B'nai Brith* presentation medal, the two *Volunteer* medals issued to volunteer members of the archaelogical missions to Massada and to the Judea Desert Caves, and other, official or semi-official, medals.

* * *

One of the rarest medals in Israel is the Jerusalem municipal presentation medal. The obverse shows the panorama of Jerusalem, taken (with permission, I am told) from the Jerusalem coin; the reverse, the name "Jerusalem" in the three languages, the recipient's name, the date and the signature of the Mayor. The City of Jerusalem has several other medals, all of them terribly and extremely scarce: a bronze medal to veterans of the Haganah who served in the Guard of Honor during Memorial Day and Independence Day celebrations, a cupronickel medal issued to members of the polling committee (all volunteers) in the last elections, and one I haven't seen yet issued to outstanding municipal employees.

* * *

Talking about the Jerusalem panorama (whose original, used on the coin, was designed by Jacob Zim of Tel Aviv) reminds me of the sister coin to the Israeli one, the huge — 55 mm. across — pure silver — 1000/1000 — coin issued by the central

Jerusalem: Elections 1969
(left: obverse; right: reverse)

Jerusalem: Haganah Veteran's Medal
(left: obverse; right: reverse)

bank of Jordan in 1969, *"as per decision taken by the Council of Ministers on 16.12.1968"*. The reverse shows a panorama — different one, of course — of Jerusalem, more or less from the same vantage point as on "our" coin. I must say it is a beautiful coin, magnificently executed.

* * *

Readers will know by now how partial I am to the *Israel Museum* publications. But when it comes to the catalog of the Feuchtwanger Collection, I am really biased, since the late. H. Feuchtwanger was an uncle of my wife. It is a Judaica Collection, very rich in all aspects, and includes quite a number of medals, tokens, "false shekels" and the like. The catalog is the largest ever issued by the *Museum,* both as to format and number of pages, and is profusely illustrated. Available in Hebrew, the English edition is due within some months.

Another book to watch for is the forthcoming catalog of the *Bank of Israel Collection of Jewish Coins,* naturally one of the richest collections in existence. The coins are not on display as the Bank does not have in its present cramped building the space to do so; but the book, prepared by Arie Kindler with members of the Bank's Staff, should be a good replacement until the Bank moves to more spacious premises.

* * *

One of the enigmas bothering me is the riddle of the 1964 5-Agoroth. Only 21,451 pieces of it were minted, and rumors have it that several bags are still held intact by dealers—yet its price is stable, and low, at around IL. 10 per coin. Taking into account the number of new collectors joining the game each year, and the number of coins already salted away in collections—it is really hard to understand what goes on.

* * *

Ever hear of the Chelouche family? More a tribe, really. Great-Grandfather was a founder of Tel Aviv, and other members distinguished themselves in all walks of life. Last Passover the family patriarch, Mr. Hillel Chelouche, decided to gather together the family for the "Seder". He limited the list to first cousins, but the gathering was, nevertheless, of several hundreds. A special medal was struck to mark the occasion; hence my mentioning it here.

* * *

And the last item for now: the thing to watch right now are Turkish notes of pre-1917 vintage. Somehow the paper craze extended to these, and their prices are soaring, especially when in good condition or better. A word of caution: there are many types, many issuing authorities (Treasury, Public Debt Administration, Banque Ottomane etc.) and while some are relatively scarce, others are more common.

500 PRUTA

OBVERSE: In the center, a branch bearing 3 stylised pomegranates. Above, the word "Israel" in Hebrew, and underneath in Arabic. The rim is encircled by elongated dots. The motif was taken from the Jewish shekels minted during the War of the Jews against Rome (66-70 CE).

Metal: Silver
Weight: 25 gm
Diameter: 38 mm
Years: 5709 (1949)
Edges: Milled

Surrounding the pomegranates is the ancient Hebrew inscription, "Jerusalem the Holy". The pomegranate is one more of the seven kinds of fruit which symbolised the Land's fertility, and is often found in Jewish decorations of the late Second Temple period and afterwards.

REVERSE: Between two olive-branches, the inscription: "500 Pruta—5709". The rim is encircled by elongated dots.

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ISRAEL MAKES NEWS

RAFAEL ALDOR REPLACES EPHRAIM LEVY AS DIRECTOR OF COINS/MEDALS CORPORATION IN NEW YORK

Jerusalem, Israel — Mr. Rafael Aldor has assumed the post of Director of the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation in New York, announced Yitzhak Avni, Director-General of the corporation headquartered in Israel.

Mr. Aldor was most recently an economic and financial reporter of Israel's largest evening newspaper, *Ma'ariv*. An economist by profession and a graduate of Hebrew University, he has been in the United States for nearly a year and in the past weeks has been working closely with his predecessor, Ephraim Levy.

Mr. Levy, who served the corporation for two years, will return to his former position with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Jerusalem, from which he was on loan for his assignment in New York.

ISRAEL MINT TO PRODUCE MORE ISSUES

All Israel silver commemorative coins and medals will be struck at the Jerusalem Mint in the future, accordign to Yitzhak Avni, director general of the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corp., Jerusalem.

Avni notes that in the future, Israel Uncirculated coins will bear a Mint mark in the form of a tiny Star of David; "Proof" issues will contain the "mem" letter, as in the past.

Coins of Israel have been struck at Mints in Bern, Switzerland; Utrecht, Netherlands; San Francisco, Calif.; Rome, Italy; the Kretschmer private Mint in Jerusalem, and in England at The Mint, Birmingham Ltd. and at Kings Norton, as well as the state Mint in Jerusalem.

Avni notes, "In my opinion this innovation will be a great achievement, and will ultimately contribute to a betted understanding between us and the collector, and increase for the better our already good reputation in the international arena of numismatics."

ATTENTION: PAPER MONEY COLLECTORS

Circular No. 79/03

Dear Sirs:

Subject: *Bank of Israel IL. 100 and IL. 10 notes—Third Series.*

A. IL. 100

We wish to bring to your attention the fact that there are in circulation IL. 100 notes whose serial numbers were printed in red and in which the water-mark (Herzl's profile) is different from that in the notes whose serial numbers are printed in black. These notes are legal tender, together with the other notes of these issues.

B. IL. 10

We wish to bring to your attention the fact that IL. 10 notes (Bialik) carry serial numbers printed in either black, blue or green.

Sincerely yours,
(Signatures)
BANK OF ISRAEL

SUPERIOR OFFERS CATALOG

A new catalog which deals primarily with ancient Judean coins and artifacts contains much valuable information on this subject. The catalog is available for $1.50.

On October 6-8, 1971, a large auction on ancient coins and artifacts including an important collection of ancient Judean coins will be held, writes Ira M. Goldberg, Superior Stamp and Coin Co. 517 W. 7 Street, L. A. Calif. 90014.

Club News

While most INS clubs do not have summer meetings, newsletters and notices do indicate some pre-summer activities and mid-summer meetings which are noted here in short form.

Pittsburgh, Pa. — A special summer meeting was held in late August to set plans for ten meetings scheduled from Sept. 15 to June 21, 1972 and for specific activities for the meeting in September. A membership drive by the club; a report on the ANA Convention of Washington, D. C.; and an exhibition was held of "The 59 Palestine Mandate Coins".

The meeting learned of AINA's planned *Fourth Annual Study Tour* of Israel (March, 1972).

The Pittsburgh group's June meeting featured a slide show on *Masada.*

* * *

San Gabriel, Calif. — These California meet during all of the summer months and a sparkling four-page newsletter providing newsnotes, meeting notices, brief biographies and numismatic education too, is edited by Esther Bromberg.

The mid-August meeting featured a report on the trip to Israel by Lou and Lillian Friedman who participated in the *Third Annual Study Tour* in March. President Alva Christensen could not attend because the meeting date conflicted with the Washington ANA Convention.

The July meeting was a talk on *Coins of the Holy Land* by Ralph Marx who showed rarely seen ancient coins.

* * *

Chicago, Illinois — The *Bulletin* of the INS of Illinois is always welcomed since it is rich in names of the members, their doings, the news of the Israel oriented numismatist and with details of past meetings that help those who couldn't make it to share in the scholarship and enthusiasm.

The June meeting saw exhibits by Dr. Morris Goldberg who spoke briefly on a small bronze statuette of "Nathan the Wise", a character created by the German writer, Lessing (1729-1781), The philosophical drama, *Nathan the Wise* (1779) on the theme of religious tolerance and brotherhood had a hero modeled after Lessing's friend, Moses Mendelssohn.

Ben Odesser reviewed *The Coins of Aelia Capitolina* by Leo Kadman, 1956, now out of print. The third exhibitor, Harry Flower, displayed French medals of Soutine, Freud and Edmond Fleg. He also showed a variety of other items including the Lion-Seal, a medal by Elisha of Haifa, a bronze paper weight and a money clip made in Israel . . . . all related to the lion-seal theme.

Dr. Saul Needleman showed a plaster cast of the large "Exodus" Medal that he had made; the Boy Scout "Ner Talmid Award"; a double-struck 10 Agorot Israel coin. Dr. Alan Feinberg displayed photos taken during the May meeting auction.

The meeting's speaker and guests was West Coaster Leonard Sterling who reported on activities of the INS groups of the West.

* * *

Los Angeles, Calif. — This jubilant INS group has just celebrated its SIXTH ANNIVERSARY and the July membership mailing is rich with the news of that event, described as "stupendous, colossal, gigantic". Guests included visitors from as far off as Pennsylvania! From Israel!

The slide show by Ben and Claire Abelson, *Portrait of Israel through Its Commemorative Coins,* was premiered at the June meeting and other INS clubs will be seeing it when the slides "go on the road."

The July meeting had a presentation by Dr. Nathan B. Gitlin on *The Hadassah Hebrew University School*

of Dentistry Alpha Omega Medal — Its Genesis and History.

Editor Evelyn Sadler honored those many members who had played key roles in the C.O.I.N. show in California; saluted the birthdays of other members; and gave the news on door prizes, new members and other club doings.

* * *

Short Hills, N. J.

Officials of the INS of New Jersey reported all persons becoming members of the group during 1971, will be charter members.

During the first regular session of the club, a study was conducted on coins and medals from the standpoint of art, design, history, tradition, collecting and investing.

Robert Shonwalter showed a modern Jerusalem commemorative coin and its ancient counterpart. He spoke about the coins and art work. Carl Rosenblum spoke about the artistry behind the El Al medal designed by Ben Shahn.

Rabbi Eli E. Pilchik was made honorary member No. 1. Appointments were made for various committees for the club year.

* * *

A.I.N.A. announces the creation of a new membership plaque. Made from olive wood strips from the State of Israel, the wood is carefully inlaid and laminated by skilled Israeli craftsmen. The official brass emblem of the American Israel Numismatic Association in full color, is mounted in the center, with members name and membership number silver imprinted. This is a most unusual and elegant plaque you will be proud to displaay in your home or office. Sold to A.I.N.A. members only. Price $10.00 prepaid check with order please. Satisfaction guaranteed; make check payable to Edward Schuman 7230 N. E. Miami Court, Miami, Fla. 33138.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir:

I read with great interest the glowing and well–deserved tribute to the late Solomon Handel in the recent issue of THE SHEKEL.

The caption under the picture of his last resting place notes the uniqueness of this tombstone and its shekel design. Adding to this uniqueness I believe is the shadow of the picture–taker which appeared on the tombstone.

I was the picture–taker, who accompanied by my wife voluntarily took a day out of a short stay in Israel, sought out the burial grounds of the late Solomon Handel, former friend and member of the INS of NY so that AINA could have a permanent pictorial record.

Cordially,
Irving Golub.

Editor's Note: THE SHEKEL is happy to acknowledge in this edited letter from Mr. Golub the debt of the publication and AINA to the Golub family for this photographic contribution. Until the receipt of this letter, we were unaware of the source of the photo and are happy to call attention to the fine photography in this explanation.

Dear Editor:

I wish to express congratulations on the fine work being done in the publishing of **The Shekel.** The magazine is useful and an excellent method for educating our members.

However, it seems like every issue has errors of the type which numismatics cannot afford. In the Summer 1971 issue, Volume IV No. 2, you have a fine article entitled "Mementos of a Great Man of Our Time", on President Ben–Zvi, and on page 9 you give the date of the fare ticket as 15/2/28 24 Shevat 28. The Hebrew date actually reads 24 Shevat 98, being the year 5798, which corresponds to the civil year of 1928.

On page 15 the same author has an article entitled "One Agora Worth 100 Pounds?", and writes most interestingly of a counterfeited "Jerusalem 1804 Dollar". This information is extremely important so that collectors shall not be taken in by the fakes. The author, however, fails to identify the fake in any fashion whch would make it possible to avoid being taken in by it. We know that it is copper and silver coated, but is it an imitation 1804 Dollar? I could not tell from the article.

Nevertheless, keep up the good work because it is good and it is important.

Sincerely,
Harold J. Nussbaum, #555

Editor's Note: We are happy to acknowledge receipt of this correction and will request that the Israeli contributor add to the information on the imitation 1804 dollar.

A Pattern For The First Medal of Liberation

by Elimelech Semmelmann

42 mm, 4½ mm thick of copper — it is believed by the author to be a pattern.

Recently I had the luck to acquire this medal which is exactly the same as *Haffner* M-A1, but in *copper*. The diameter is 42 mm and it is 4½ mm thick. No Israeli medal is this thick, to my knowledge. The medal weighs 62 grams.

It lacks the pearls near the edge of the 38 mm silver specimen. The diameter of the gold specimen is 27 mm, also with pearls at the edge. There is no inscription on the edge of my medal.

I believe this medal to be a pattern and of great scarcity though I am aware of the existence of two further specimens. There are two sizes of the medal that were officially issued; I believe mine to be a pattern on which the official medals were finally based.

Comments from numismatists and medal collectors will be welcomed.

Editor's Note: The Haffner M-1C medals are 61mm in copper. Note that the writer's medal is 41mm.

"STORY OF ISRAEL IN COINS" BY GOULD

Maurice Gould, newest member of the Board of Directors of AINA, long active in numismatics as a collector, author and lecturer, and his wife, Jean, were honored by many convention groups who acclaimed their book *The Story of Israel in Coins,* recently published by the Wilshire Book Company, California.

The paperback ($2) is beautifully illustrated and the co-authors portray an interesting history of the Jewish people and Israel's trials since David Ben Gurion's reading of its Proclamation of Independence 23 years ago.

The authors capture the attention of the reader in the first chapter, which is titled The Birth of a Nation—one "born in chaos and turmoil" on May 14, 1948. Israel's coins and commemorative medals, depicting the struggle of the young nation for progress, as well as the problems of the Jews of Biblical times, all have been catalogued.

The book may be ordered from AINA, P. O. Box 3194. Church St. Sta. N. Y. N. Y. 10008; please add 25c to cover postage and handling.

100-POUND PALESTINE NOTE

Continued

collectors or researchers with a desire to see this note.

It is my sincere hope this article might bring forth information and verification of the survival of at least another 100 pound note issued by the Palestine Currency board. Any individual with information concerning the existence or possible existence and/or confirmed destruction of any 100 pound notes is requested to contact Jack H. Fisher, attorney at law, 912 American National Bank building, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49006, with the date and serial number of each.

BRITISH SERVICE MEDALS

Continued

immigrants from ships *(Better call them nutshells* - E. S.)

In a letter to the Editor, published in *Spink's Circular,* October, 1970, I wrote that the Bar was given also to the thousands of British Paratroopers who were brought over to Palestine to fight the underground organizations: the Haganah, Etzel and Lechi.

I came to the conclusion that the clasp was awarded to any soldier serving in British uniform or under British comand in these years in Palestine.

I have in my possession a Service Medal with this bar of the Transjordan Frontier Force; another of the Arab Legion which is of the Jordan Kingdom; and of the Palestine Regiment, the recipient of which was a Jew.

I have also seen in different sales of *Spink's* and *Seaby's* this medal and bar given to soldiers of different units of the British Army; for instance, the R.A.F., R.E., R.A.S.C., R.A.O.C., Medical Corps, etc. though they were not hunting illegal immigrants or fighting the Jewish underground.

I collect these medals and bars for their importance as a hstorical document in these years of decision that led to the creation of the State of Israel.

* * *

The author of this article is an Israeli numismatist, a dental technician with six children. He has been interested in the coins and medals field for ten years.

JEWISH-AMERICAN HALL OF FAME ART MEDALS
now available

Justice Louis Brandeis
Albert Einstein
Rabbi Judah Magnes

These beautiful 2-inch medals are made in very limited editions. Cost is only $7.50 each in bronze; $25 each in solid silver. JUDAH MAGNES MUSEUM, 2911 Russell Street, Berkeley, California 94705.

PRIVATE BORLONT?

Continued

By now it should be clear where I am trying to lead. Medals have always been part of numismatics—and military decorations and orders among them. Israel does not have them—yet; just ribbons. A draft *Army Decorations Law* is now before Parliament; it is not exactly the most pressing item on the Knesseth's agenda.

There are plenty of medals connected with Palestine which deserve collecting. And not just British medals, though I might mention the Palestine bar awarded during the First World War, and the other Palestine bar issued to those who participated in quelling the Arab riots of 1936-39, as well as Naval and Air Force medals with similar bars. Mention should be made also of the Police Medal issued British police in Palestine, and of course medals of all sorts issued to members of units like the Jewish Legion (The 38 and 39 Battalions, King's Rifles—as they were officially called in WW I and to members of the Palestine Units and later the Jewish Brigade in WW II (whose insignia is also worth collecting), and so on.

Turkish World War I
(left: obverse; right: reverse)

Take Acre, our Akko. In 1799 Napoleon tried to capture it, after besieging its walls, and was defeated by the Turks (plus the Bedouin sheikh Dahar al-Ummar) and by the British Navy; there are two Turkish medals and a British bar for this operation. In 1832 Acre was captured by the Egypt-

Turkish Acre
(left: obverse; right: reverse)

ian Ibrahim Pasha, and when the Turks managed to dislodge him, in 1840, they, naturally, issued still another medal.

I did not check, but it might be worthwhile to do so, if there are any German medals from WW I connected with Palestine, or Polish medals from WW II. I heard somewhere that Polish medals were minted in Palestine for the Polish Army which stayed here during the war.

And then, of course, the profusion of units which served in Palestine during the British Mandate. All kinds of Army units, Police, Frontier Force, Auxiliary Police, etc.

I think I have made my point. And I really want to get any information readers might have on *Private H. J. Borlont* of the Zion Mule Corps.

Palestine 1945 - 48 Bar
(left: reverse; right: obverse)

Borlont's War Medal
(left: reverse; right: obverse)

POPE PIUS VI PRESENTED WITH ALBUM OF SILVER ISRAELI MEDALS

Officials of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith presented Pope Paul VI with an album of silver Israeli medals struck by the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation commemorating nine historical cities of the Holy Land. The presentation, at a private audience with the Pope in June, was made by (l. to r.) Dr. Joseph Lichten, director of the League's department of Intercultural Affairs, Seymour Graubard (holding the album), the agency's national chairman, and Benjamin R. Epstein, national director, all of whom received the papal gold medal in return. Seventy-eight ADL leaders from 24 states were part of the Pope's general audience that day. The ADL contingent went to Rome following an eight-day "Assembly In Israel" sponsored by the agency's "Society of Fellows."

AT THE EXHIBIT of the medallic work of Victor D. Brenner on June 12, 1971 — 10th anniversary of the artist's birth. Left to right: Morris Bram, official of Collectors of Art Medals, Inc., which sponsored the exhibit; Frank Gasparro, Chief Engraver of the U.S. Mint; Gene Hessler, Curator at the Chase Manhattan Bank Money Museum; Irwin Stoff and D. Wayne Johnson, who built the exhibit. Material for the exhibit was loaned by the United States Mint Bureau, the Medallic Art Company of New York City, American Numismatic Society, and Irwin Stoff.

MEDAL COLLECTORS MEET

Ester and Mel Wacks, of Syosset, N.Y., discuss art medals with Fred Menkes, of Medallic Art Company, and Nathan Sobel, collector of Israeli medals, at the Organizational Meeting April 25th of the new organization Collectors of Art Medals, Inc. Both Wacks and Sobel are Board members of AINA.

NEWS AND BOOKS

SCHULMAN TO ADDRESS GRAND CENTRAL CONVENTION IN NOVEMBER

Most Israel coin collectors collect the State of Israel coins, medals and paper money. Some go back through the mandate coins, others the ancient coins. But there are other tangents for Israel collectors to follow. Edward Schuman will speak on Off-Beat Judaica Numismatica at the educational forum at the Grand Central Coin Convention Saturday Nov. 4-7 at 8 p. m. in New York.

No stranger to the New York area, he has served in executive capacity in the Brooklyn, Queens and Long Island Coin Clubs until he relocated to Florida almost four years ago. He is president of the Israel Numismatic Society of Greater Miami as well as V. P. of A. I. N. A.

His talk will cover such items as Synagogue tokens, marriage medals, "Jewish Cobs", Medals of Jewish people or events, Israel town and community badges and awards, Hebrew charity tokens, medieval European coins with Hebrew letters, as well as American Colonial Currency signed by Jewish men. A color slide presentation will accompany the talk.

BOOK REVIEW:
THE ROMAN – JEWISH WAR (66 – 70 A. D.)
Its Origin And Consequences by Dr. Moses Aberbach Published by the Jewish Quarterly (London) in association with R. Golub & Company, London 1966.

Collectors of ancient Jewish coins might be interested in the above scholarly and very readable eighty-page book. Although there are no references to coins in his presentation, the numismatist will enrich his background of this period by a journey through this book. The first century of the modern era is extremely important from both historical and numismatic view points.

Dr. Aberbach has culled all the known sources which pertain to this period and has come up with some novel theories as to what were the real root causes of the first revolt (66-70) which resulted in the Jews becoming a people without a homeland.

The author presents two root causes which led to this revolt. His first root cause is that Roman Imperial policy was becoming increasingly determined by a number freedmen of Greek origin who had a very distinct Jewish bias—even more so than the Romans. He points out how the Romans, for the most part, merely repeated some of the Older Greek prejudices against the Jews. After the death of the Jewish King Agrippa I in 44 C. E., Aberbach shows how these Hellenistic Freedman controlled Roman policy with very little interference from the Roman Emperors.

The other root cause according to the author—one which I found most intriguing and may have precipitated the previous root cause—was the highly successful Jewish missionary movement which resulted in many converts to Judiasm throughout the Roman Empire. It is estimated that in the total population of Jews and convents was at least 10%; while in the Eastern portion of the Empire the figure approached 20%; while most Hellenistic cities contained most less than 33%. Besides these factors the birth rate in Italy was declining, while Jews in this period were known to have large families.

To offset what the Roman policy makers considered a potentially dangerous political and military threat, a policy of repression was adopted in Judea. This was carried out by the procurators in Judea who were known to be harsh. Other authors attributed these harsh measures to the individual procurators, but Dr. Aberbach shows their harshness was due to the highest policy makers in Rome.

Under such conditions were the seeds of rebellion sown. After 70 C. E. the official discrimination by Rome against all Jewry within the Roman Empire foreshadowed the medieval and modern persecutors.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Continued

your Board of Directors for her so very great contributions to all of our knowledge of Israel's coins and medals!

Where but at such a gathering could one extend heartfelt appreciation to Ephraim Levy, the Director for North America of the Israel Coins and Medals Corporation now leaving the U. S. to rejoin his family in Israel after dedicated, extended service abroad . . . and to welcome the splendid young enthusiastic man who has been appointed as his successor. You will soon meet Rafael Aldor and get to know his sparkling wit and joyous personality as I have during the past few weeks he has been working with his now-departed predecessor.

If all of this were not enough to make this spectacular evening a memorable occasion, consider that you also missed a brilliant all-Israel slide show by one of the most enthusiastic members of the Third AINA Study Tour of Israel, Pittsburgh's Rabbi Aaron B. Ilson whose knowledge of numismatics is only surpassed by his knowledge of color photography. The Rabbi's slides of the tour held the Washington audience spellbound and we thank him for his contribution to the evening's success . . . again.

The audience learned for the first time that the Board of Directors of your AINA has been given additional lustre through the acceptance of Maurice M. Gould, internationally famed numismatic expert and long a valued friend and AINA member, of a position on the Board. Welcome, Maurice.

The months ahead are going to be as exciting for all of us as the moments just passed. The New Year celebration of the Jewish people is upon us—and we wish all a Happy New Year. And we recommend that for the not-so-distant holiday of Chanukah in December, you order gifts from AINA NOW, your copies of the Romanoff book, Jewish Symbols on Ancient Jewish Coins, still only $7.50 each . . . while they last. Please send your order with a check and add 25c for postage and handling for each.

Finally, now is the time to plan ahead for March of 1972. That will be the time for AINA members, their wives and family members to depart on AINA's *Fourth* Study Tour of Israel. *Isn't this the year YOU make the trip to Jerusalem?* There's a special friend waiting for you there on this trip. Ephraim Levy will be aching for news of his friends in New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Pittsburgh, Baltimore . . . *and where you live.* You can make it this March. . . . if you plan ahead, *starting now.*

Shalom, Morris Bram.

ISRAEL'S MILITARY SCRIP

Continued

a certain number of days every year, depending on the general security situation, his particular job, etc. However, a number of the soldiers elect to stay in the army after their obligatory service, either as a career, or just for a few additional years. It is these people that make up the regular army.

The paper money tokens are given to both the oficers and men in the regular army, as part of their regular salary. They are given out in a quantity commensurate with their rank and length of service, and are issued each April, at the start of the fiscal year.

They are in denominations of ½, 1, 3, and 5-pounds. Each value has a different shade of color, and the new series of every fiscal year has a different coloring from the previous year. The new issues do not invalidate the issues of previous years. Tokens are issued in booklets containing sheets of all denominations; each sheet has four tokens of the same value.

These tokens are used in Army stores for purchase of uniforms, beddnig, shoes, gloves, and similar items. They can only be used at these stores and each token may only be used once. Therefore, they are not in general circulation and are not very commonly seen.

feature of Jewish dress, probably originated in Persia. The Jewish hat became established as a universal symbol of medieval Jewry, just as the Star of David did in modern times. It was proudly displayed and was even used on some family coats of arms.

At Gnesen, in the Kingdom of Poland, in 1267 the Jews were ordered to retain the pointed hat *(pileus cornutus)*. The color of the hat was usually yellow but on manuscripts a variety of colors is found including red and white.

The long beard and the girdled caftan of the man on the Bathori coin supply further evidence as to the intended identity of the man.

The two strands of hair below the boy's left ear probably indicates the earlocks which orthodox Jews were forbidden to cut by their religious laws, occasionally reinforced by civil laws (i.e. Valladolid, 1412: *"Henceforward Jews . . . are not to shave their beards, or have them shaved with razors or scissors; nor trim nor cut the hairs, but are to wear them long as they grow naturally, as they were formerly accustomed"*).

But why depict Jews on a coin commemorating the return to Poland of two territories which were ethnically Russian? There does not seem to be an obvious reason. Actually, life for the Jews of Poland under Stephen Bathori was relatively good. The privileges which the Jews had obtained from former kings were augmented; from Bathori's day until 1764 the Polish Jews had a Parliament of their own which met twice a year and even had the power of taxation. It was also chiefly in the interest of the Jews that Bathori restricted, by special edict, the trading rights of Scottish peddlers who were very numerous in Poland at the time. On the other hand, the treatment of their co-religionists in czarist Russia was poor (Jews were forbidden under penalty of the law to enter Central-Muscovite-Russia) while the Polish Jews enjoyed a new golden age and earned for themselves the spiritual leadership of all Judaism.

It is exceedingly difficult for us now, almost 400 years later, to know the motives of those responsible for the *"Livonia-Polotsk Recep"* coin. There are many possible theories — and I would welcome your guess. I would say that, because of the relatively good status of the Polish Jews, the Jewish captives shown on the coin must represent their Jewish brethren in Russia. The young boy, who is obviously free (with his hands waving over his head) might signify the new life of freedom awaiting the Russian Jews in Poland. And thus, we might have here not an early Judaea Capta type, but the first instance of Judaea Liberated!

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A Wonderful Gift! A Lifetime Treasure!

JEWISH SYMBOLS ON ANCIENT JEWISH COINS

by Paul Romanoff

Long out-of-print, this year AINA recreated a new edition of this most important numismatic classic. We recommend it as a gift for the New Year to anyone interested in learning more about Jewish coins and their heritage. Available from AINA, P. O. BOX 3194, CHURCH STREET STATION, N.Y. N.Y. 10008 at $7.50 per copy. (NEW YORKERS ADD LOCAL TAXES, PLEASE.)

AINA AWARD TO EPHRAIM LEVY

A testimonial dinner was tendered by AINA to bid SHALOM to departing Ephraim Levy, former Director for North America, Israel Coins and Medals Corporation. A plaque featuring a sculptured artwork of Jerusalem was presented on behalf of all AINA members by Morris Bram, president, *(right)*. The photo on the wall is Mr. Levy's home, Jerusalem, where he rejoins the Foreign Office.

RAFAEL ALDOR SUCCEEDS LEVY IN TOP POST

Ephraim Levy *(left)* reviews details of pending programs of the Israel Coins and Medals Corporation with the new Director for North America, Rafael Aldor *(center)*. Morris Bram, president of AINA, promises to travel with Mr. Aldor to introduce him to AINA club members across the country.

LET MY PEOPLE GO

IL 10 COMMEMORATIVE COIN

Dedicated to the Freedom of Soviet Jewry
To Be Officially Released October, 1971

Designed by Yacov Zim

OBVERSE:
A rising sun behind bars and the inscription "Let My People Go" in Hebrew and English, the first time an official Israeli coin bears an inscription in English.

REVERSE:
Israel's official emblem - 10 Israeli pounds - and the date: 1971-5731.

Purchasers of the coin will receive a lapel pin the size of a 10 agorot coin, depicting the obverse of the coin. Orders are now being accepted by A.I.N.A.